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**Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710**

## **PSW to Launch New Publication: *Science Perspectives***

The Station is launching *Science Perspectives*, a new publication aimed at readers who make and influence decisions about managing and protecting America's forests and rangelands. Planned as a 6-page, full-color publication, each issue will be devoted to a single theme, take a practical approach to its subject (the goal is to put research to work), and highlight science findings and their managerial significance. Two issues are planned for 2003. By 2005, *Science Perspectives* will be published quarterly.

Station Director Hilda Diaz-Soltero has urged all PSW researchers to submit proposals for *Science Perspectives*. Each Station scientist or group of scientists whose proposal is selected will receive \$5,000 to use for their research or professional development.

Proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee chaired by Assistant Station Director Garland Mason. It will include scientists, managers, and Washington Office representative Cornelius Pratt, research coordinator, WO Communications Office. Cornelius spent 2 weeks at PSW this month working with PSW scientists, editors, technical information specialists, and the visual information specialist to develop the *Science Perspectives* concept and format. Once a proposal has been selected by the committee, a professional science writer will work with the PSW scientist(s) to prepare the text.

The first issue of *Science Perspectives*, to be published this summer, will focus on scientist Connie Millar's current research on climate change. It will be available both electronically and in hardcopy.

## **New Safety Council Established at PSW**

A new Stationwide Safety Council has been established at PSW, with a representative from each of the field sites. The Chief's Safety and Health Action Plan calls for a safety council to be established at the headquarters level of each Region, Station, Area, and National Forest. Members of the new PSW Safety Council are: Lori Nelson, Albany; Chet Ogan, Arcata; Andy Groover, Davis; Doug Drynan, Fresno; Bob Borys, Placerville; Glen Everest, Redding; Dave Hamilton, Riverside; Roddy Nagata, Hilo; Tom Cole, Honolulu; Paula Peper, Employee Council; and Randy Meyers, Union representative. Each member serves 3 years.

The Council's initial meeting will be held March 25-27 at the Institute of Forest Genetics, Placerville, according to Station safety officer Chuck Richmond. A chair and other offices are to be elected at this organizing meeting.

## **PSW Sponsors 2002 Fire Conference in San Diego**

PSW joined several organizations in sponsoring the 2002 Fire Conference, held Dec. 2-5, in San Diego. Other sponsors included the Wildlife Society, Association of Fire Ecology, California Department of Parks and Recreation, National Interagency Fire Center's Joint Fire Science Program, National Park Service, Geological Survey, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Officially titled "Managing Fire and Fuels in the Remaining Wildlands and Open Spaces of the Southwestern United States," the conference theme was "The Challenge of Implementing Fuels Management Treatments in the Western United States." Several employees from the Station's Forest Fire Laboratory, Riverside, attended.

Papers presented in the proceedings will be published in the Station's General-Technical-Report series. Marcia Narog, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit, Riverside, is serving as technical coordinator. Session chairs were Marcia, Mary O'Dea, and Jan Beyers from PSW, Riverside, along with Sarah Converse.

The following papers were presented at the conference:

- \* *The Effects of Fire on Soil Hydrologic Properties and Sediment Fluxes in Chaparral Steeplands, Southern California* by Pete Wohlgemuth and Ken Hubbert of PSW.

- \* *The Role of Trust, Knowledge, Concern, and Sociodemographic Characteristics in the Prediction of Californians' Reactions to Fire Management* by Pat Winter, PSW, and George Cvetkovich.

- \* *The Importance of Considering External Influences During Presuppression Wildfire Planning* by Andrew Wilson and Marc Wiitala, both of PSW.

- \* *Evaluation of the Economic Tradeoffs of Fuel Treatment and Fire Suppression Programs on the Angeles National Forest Using the Fire Effects Tradeoff Model* by Mark Schaaf, Marc Wiitala of PSW, and Don Carlton.

- \* *An Evaluation of Smoke Emissions from Alternative Fuel-treatment Scenarios on the Angeles National Forest Using the Fire-effects Tradeoff Model* by Mark Schaaf, Marc Wiitala, PSW, and Don Carlton.

- \* *Spatial Analyses of Fuel Treatment Options for Chaparral on the Angeles National Forest* by Greg Jones, Jim Chew, Robin Silverstein, Chris Stalling, Janet Sullivan, Judy Troutwine, and David Weise of PSW.

- \* *Soil and Vegetation Effects on the Spatial Distribution of Pre- and Post-fire Soil Non-wettability in Steep Chaparral, Southern California* by Ken Hubbert and Pete Wohlgemuth.

**See Fire Conference, on back**

### **Oliver to Retire February 3—42 Years of Service**

William W. Oliver, long-time silviculturist with the Station's Forest Growth and Development Research Unit, is retiring February 3, with 42 years of Federal service. He plans to serve the Station thereafter as an emeritus scientist. He and his wife Ximenao, who is a Spanish translator/interpreter in Butte County, will continue to live in Redding.

Born in Trenton, N.J., Bill earned a forestry degree at the University of New Hampshire in 1956. He joined the Forest Service as a junior forester. He subsequently left to earn a master of forestry degree at the University of Michigan in 1960. In 1962, he joined the PSW Station research staff at Berkeley and relocated to the Redding unit the following year. Bill served as Project Leader—Silviculture of Sierra Nevada Forests from 1984-1992 and then as Team Leader—Forest Growth and Development from 1992-2000.

### **Laacke Retires January 3—31 Years of Service**

Robert James (Jim) Laacke retired January 3, with 31 years of Federal service. He was Team Leader—Decision Support Systems Research, at the Station's Silviculture Laboratory at Redding. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Jim received his early schooling in the area and then attended the University of Missouri, where he received five degrees: B.S. in forestry (1962), B.A. in geology (1970), M.S. in forestry (1971), M.A. in geology (1971), and Ph.D. in plant physiology (1973).

Before joining the FS and PSW at Redding in 1978, he worked as State extension forester at the University of California at Berkeley. He served as Project Leader—Forest Regeneration from 1981 to 1988 and as Team Leader from 1992 until his retirement.

In retirement, Jim will live in Cedarsville, Calif. near the Oregon and Nevada borders. He has joined a number of civic organizations that, he says, will keep him busy.

### **Chavez Wins Forest Supervisor's Award**

Debbie Chavez on Dec. 12, 2002, received the prestigious FS Forest Supervisor's Award from Gene Zimmerman, Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest. She was cited for the "outstanding quality and credibility of her social research." This work, the citation continues "has led to a better understanding of our rapidly changing and ethnically diverse recreating public." A research social scientist, Debbie is with the Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, at the Forest Fire Laboratory at Riverside.

### **Fire Conference, continued**

\* *Visual Assessment of Rotational Prescribed Burning on Natural Stands of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine* by Sally Haase and Steve Sackett of PSW.

\* *High-Resolution Weather Models for Fire and Air Quality Management* by Francis Fujioka of PSW.

\* *Low-cost Monitors for Monitoring Smoke in Remote Areas* by Mike Arbaugh, Andrzej Bytnerowicz, and Pam Padgett, all of PSW.

\* *Assessment and Modeling of Beliefs, Values, and Social Norms Related to Wildland-fire Management in Southern California* by Jim Absher of PSW, Jerry Vaske, Adam Brogjt, and K. Knewshaw.

\* *Post-wildfire Floodflows: Perceptions by BAER Teams and Real Events* by Daniel Neary, Peter Robichaud, and Jan Beyers.

The following posters were presented at the conference:

\* *Determining Ground-based Initial-attack Response Times to Aid Strategic Planning Efforts* by Andrew Wilson and Marc Wiitala of PSW.

\* *Growth of Regreen, Seeded for Erosion Control, in the Manter Fire Area, Southern Sierra Nevada* by Jan Beyers.

\* *Fire Hazard Mitigation at the Urban Wildland Interface: Balancing the Protection of Life and Property with the Protection of Endangered Species Habitat in the Increasingly Urbanized Environment* by Andrew Bennett, Ken Pimlott, and George Riechers of PSW.

\* *Prescribed Fire Effects on California's Oaks* by Tim Paysen of PSW.

\* *Chamise (*Adenostoma Fasciculatum*) Leaf Strategies* by Marcia Narog.

\* *Determining Ground-based Initial-attack Response Times to Aid Strategic Planning Efforts* by Andrew Wilson and Marc Wiitala.

\* *A Policy and Program Analysis Model for Planning Pre-suppression Wildfire Organizations at Multiple Scales* by Marc Wiitala and Andrew Wilson.

### **Personnely Speaking — Promotion**

\* Marilyn Burrows, Station Director's Office: from Secretary to Management Analyst.

### **Conferences/Meetings/Seminars**

\* Armando Gonzalez-Caban, Fire Management Research Unit, Riverside, presented a seminar on the fire control situation in the United States, at the Corporacion Nacional Forestal, in Santiago, Chile, Sept. 8-13.

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